



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1990

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U.K. INCREASE EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION TO 2.2M POUND STERLING

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE DECIDED TO INCREASE ITS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO 2.2 MILLION POUND STERLING TO THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME TO PROVIDE FEE SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO THE CITY POLYTECHNIC THIS MORNING, MR MAUDE SAID THE 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE EFFECTIVE FROM THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY WILL INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION BY THE SAME AMOUNT," HE SAID.

"THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT ARE VERY KEEN TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND BRITAIN IN ALL FIELDS. EDUCATION IS ONE FIELD IN WHICH WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED," THE MINISTER SAID.

"THAT IS WHY WE INTRODUCED IN 1983, A SCHEME WHICH IS JOINTLY FUNDED WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FEE SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO WISH TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM," MR MAUDE SAID.

HE SAID SINCE 1983, THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHEME HAD INCREASED TO ABOUT 1,600 A YEAR, THE BENEFICIARIES COMING FROM FAMILIES WITH A RELATIVELY LOW DISPOSABLE INCOME.

MR MAUDE POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MEASURE, WHICH PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE IN MAKING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO A CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION.

"THIS IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE SORT OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT WHICH HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IS GIVING TO HONG KONG, WORKING CLOSELY IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR ITS FUTURE," HE SAID.

HAVING SPOKEN TO A GROUP OF STUDENTS AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC DURING HIS VISIT, MR MAUDE SAID HE WAS HUGELY IMPRESSED BY THEIR ABILITY, ENTHUSIASM AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

"IT'S THAT CONFIDENCE, THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE, THAT HONG KONG CAN ADAPT AND BUILD A FUTURE THAT IS GOING TO MAKE A GOOD DEAL OF DIFFERENCE," MR MAUDE SAID.

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ANALYSIS OF HK'S RE-EXPORT TRADE IN 1989 BY MARKET, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN  
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HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$346,405 MILLION IN 1989, A GROWTH OF 26 PER CENT IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH 1988.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RELEASED THE SUMMARY STATISTICS ON HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1989 ANALYSED BY MARKET AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

RE-EXPORTS BY MARKET  
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THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1.

CHINA AND THE USA, THE TWO LARGEST MARKETS FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, ACCOUNTED FOR 30 PER CENT AND 21 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN 1989. THE SHARES OF JAPAN, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WERE 6 PER CENT, 5 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING 1989 WITH 1988, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED, WITH THE MORE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES RECORDED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+52 PER CENT), THE USA (+46 PER CENT), CANADA (+45 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+39 PER CENT), AUSTRALIA (+29 PER CENT), JAPAN (+28 PER CENT), AND SINGAPORE (+27 PER CENT). RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND CHINA ALSO INCREASED, BY 17 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT AND 9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, THE LARGEST MARKET, INCREASED BY \$8,597 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY FOR THE MARKET, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$5,119 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT); PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$1,733 MILLION OR 147 PER CENT); AND LEATHER, LEATHER MANUFACTURES AND DRESSED FURSKINS (BY \$842 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR-CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$1,128 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$1,091 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO THE USA, THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, INCREASED BY \$22,550 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT.

COMMODITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$6,627 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$4,308 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$3,737 MILLION OR 88 PER CENT).

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HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$408 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN INCREASED BY \$4,851 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,693 MILLION OR 84 PER CENT); AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS; WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$661 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT).

A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR IRON AND STEEL (BY \$210 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN RECORDED AN INCREASE OF \$2,348 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$889 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT); AND TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$333 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR NON-FERROUS METALS (BY \$153 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GREW BY \$1,515 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$638 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT); AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$219 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT).

A DECREASE WAS REGISTERED FOR NON-FERROUS METALS (BY \$480 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT).

#### RE-EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

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RE-EXPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

GOODS FROM CHINA, JAPAN, TAIWAN, THE USA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONTRIBUTED 54 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT, 8 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS THROUGH HONG KONG IN 1989.

COMPARING 1989 WITH 1988, MOST OF THE MAJOR ORIGIN COUNTRIES SUPPLIED MORE IN VALUE TERMS TO HONG KONG FOR RE-EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY SINGAPORE (+84 PER CENT) AND CHINA (+43 PER CENT).

CHINA CONTINUED TO BE THE LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1989. A GROWTH OF 43 PER CENT IN VALUE OR \$56,746 MILLION OVER 1988 WAS RECORDED IN THE RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING IN CHINA.

AMONGST GOODS ORIGINATING IN CHINA, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$13,583 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$12,166 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$7,987 MILLION OR 80 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR NON-FERROUS METALS (BY \$816 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT); AND FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$513 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT).

JAPAN REMAINED THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1989. COMPARED WITH 1988, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF \$1,284 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING IN JAPAN.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$584 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS; WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$352 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT); AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$181 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT).

A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$790 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING IN TAIWAN INCREASED BY \$5,753 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1989, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF TEXTILES (BY \$1,700 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT); AND LEATHER, LEATHER MANUFACTURES AND DRESSED FURSKINS (BY \$598 MILLION OR 97 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$72 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING IN THE USA INCREASED BY \$3,172 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS. COMMODITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,238 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT); AND TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$832 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$929 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED BY \$1,773 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT IN VALUE, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$975 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT); AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$734 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, AN INCREASE WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$445 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE ABOVE RE-EXPORT STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER 1989" NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4915.

TABLE 1: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-DEC 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-DEC 1988 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
CHINA	103,492	94,895	+ 8,597	+ 9
USA	72,033	49,483	+ 22,550	+ 46
JAPAN	22,268	17,418	+ 4,851	+ 28
TAIWAN	16,478	14,130	+ 2,348	+ 17
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	13,279	11,764	+ 1,515	+ 13
F.F. OF GERMANY	13,121	8,637	+ 4,484	+ 52
SINGAPORE	11,029	8,703	+ 2,326	+ 27
UK	8,918	6,420	+ 2,499	+ 39
AUSTRALIA	5,760	4,459	+ 1,302	+ 29
CANADA	5,413	3,742	+ 1,671	+ 45

TABLE 2: RE-EXPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	JAN-DEC 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-DEC 1988 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
CHINA	188,271	131,525	+ 56,746	+ 43
JAPAN	38,998	37,714	+ 1,284	+ 3
TAIWAN	26,960	21,208	+ 5,753	+ 27
USA	22,325	19,153	+ 3,172	+ 17
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	11,278	13,050	- 1,773	- 14
SINGAPORE	5,039	2,734	+ 2,306	+ 84
F.R. OF GERMANY	4,927	4,201	+ 726	+ 17
SWITZERLAND	4,090	3,346	+ 744	+ 22
FRANCE	3,721	3,134	+ 587	+ 19
UK	3,707	3,255	+ 452	+ 14

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CONTROLLING PUBLIC SPENDING TO KEEP INFLATION DOWN

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, HAS REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT CONTROLLING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MORE TIGHTLY, AND HENCE ALSO HELPING TO KEEP DOWN INFLATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOME ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES SHOW 1990 TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT A MYTH WAS GROWING THAT THE NEED TO RAISE TAXES, AND TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE, ALL AROSE BECAUSE OF THE AIRPORT.

"THIS IS VERY MISLEADING," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE RAPID GROWTH IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE - UP ABOUT 9.5 PER CENT IN 1990-91 IN REAL TERMS - AT A TIME WHEN ECONOMIC GROWTH HAD GONE DOWN TO ABOUT THREE PER CENT.

"OF COURSE THE AIRPORT IS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF OUR MEDIUM TERM PLANS.

"BUT IT IS MAINLY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, SPREAD OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND WILL BE PARTLY PAID FOR BY PRIVATE INVESTORS," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD STRESSED THAT THE PORT AND AIRPORT DID NOT FEATURE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE 1990-91 ESTIMATES.

TURNING TO THE NEW HOME ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES SHOW 1990, MR MACLEOD DESCRIBED IT AS A SHOWCASE OF HONG KONG'S TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES.

"CREDIT MUST GO TO THE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY FOR THE INCREASING APPLICATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, SUCH AS COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING, AUTOMATED ASSEMBLY AND PROPRIETARY SURFACE TREATMENT PROCESS.

"THE POSITIVE OUTCOME IS THAT BUYERS AT HOME AND ABROAD ARE ASSURED OF QUALITY AND VALUE," HE SAID.

HONG KONG EXPORTED A TOTAL VALUE OF \$16,690 MILLION OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS AND IMPORTED MORE THAN \$21 BILLION WORTH OF MAJOR ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL HOME APPLIANCES IN 1989, MR MACLEOD SAID.

"THIS BUSINESS VOLUME REFLECTED NOT ONLY OUR VERY CONSIDERABLE CONSUMER SPENDING POWER BUT ALSO HONG KONG'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE," HE ADDED.

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COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MEETS URBAN TAXI GROUPS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR GORDON SIU, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MET FOUR SEPARATE REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS OF OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF THE TAXI TRADE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS OVER THE APPLICATIONS FOR URBAN TAXI FARE RISE.

THIS FOLLOWED A MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE YESTERDAY WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT A FARE REVISION FOR URBAN TAXIS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

IN A LETTER TO THE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS AFTER TODAY'S MEETINGS, MR SIU SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD FULLY NOTED THE CONCERN OF THE TRADE.

"THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS FULLY CONSIDERED THE TAXI FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL FACTORS AFFECTING THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TRADE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL FARE ITEMS FOR HIRING A TAXI WILL BE PUT UP SHORTLY TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

"ORIGINALLY THE DEPARTMENT HAD PLANNED TO COMPLETE THE ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATIONS BY THE END OF MAY," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE TRADE AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT INCREASE IN FUEL TAX WHICH HAS CAUSED ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF TAXI DRIVERS, THE DEPARTMENT EXPEDITED THE ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN ADVANCING THE PROCESSING DATE BY EIGHT WEEKS, MR SIU ADDED.

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HEAD OF AFD'S FISHERIES BRANCH RETIRES

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, AND STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID FAREWELL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES), DR CHRISTOPHER LEE, WHO IS RETIRING NEXT WEEK AFTER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

DR LEE JOINED THE AFD IN 1966 AS AN ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER IN 1980 AND TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN 1986.

SPEAKING AT THE FAREWELL PARTY HELD AT THE AFD HEADQUARTERS THIS AFTERNOON, THE DIRECTOR PAID TRIBUTE TO DR LEE'S USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S FISHERIES INDUSTRY OVER THE YEARS.

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"THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, DR LEE HAS DISPLAYED A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY AS WELL AS A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND DEDICATION," HE SAID.

"HE HAS BEEN A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN FISHERIES AND FISHERIES RESEARCH."

THE DIRECTOR NOTED THAT DR LEE HAD MADE INDISPUTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH IN HONG KONG.

"IN THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE SPENT RELENTLESS EFFORT IN STUDYING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EXPLOITED TROPICAL FISHERIES AND THE VARIOUS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE APPRAISAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

"IN THIS FIELD, HE PIONEERED THE COMPUTERISATION OF IMPORTANT FISHERIES STATISTICS," HE SAID.

ON CAPTURE FISHERIES, DR LEE HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATING PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDED HONG KONG WITH VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING EXPLORATORY FISHING AND ACOUSTIC TECHNIQUES.

DR LAWRENCE LEE SAID: "THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S CAPTURE FISHERIES WHICH NOW SUPPLY SOME THREE-QUARTERS OF ITS MARINE FISH CONSUMPTION NEEDS."

THE DIRECTOR ALSO NOTED THAT MUCH EFFORT HAD BEEN PUT IN BY DR LEE TO IMPROVE LIAISON WITH THE FISHERIES INDUSTRIES.

"THE FISHING COMMUNITY'S APPRECIATION OF A BETTER MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES HAVE ASSISTED GREATLY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE AS WELL AS ENABLING THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION TO COMBAT EFFECTIVELY ILLEGAL FISH MARKETING," HE SAID.

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#### POLICE MUSEUM A POPULAR VISITING PLACE

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THE POLICE MUSEUM AT 27 COOMBE ROAD, WAN CHAI, HAS BECOME A POPULAR VISITING PLACE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

"SINCE ITS OPENING IN DECEMBER 1988, A TOTAL OF 88,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 5,500 GROUP PARTICIPANTS AND 82,500 INDIVIDUALS, HAVE VISITED THE MUSEUM WHICH HOUSES AN INTERESTING DISPLAY OF POLICE EXHIBITS RANGING FROM OLD UNIFORMS TO DRUG PARAPHERNALIA," A POLICE SPOKEMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/"THE VISITORS .....

"THE VISITORS COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING STUDENTS, HOUSEWIVES AND TOURISTS," HE ADDED.

NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE CURRENT GALLERY, ONE OF THE FOUR GALLERIES IN THE MUSEUM WHICH CHANGES ITS THEME FROM TIME-TO-TIME, IS THE WORK OF MARINE POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE TASKED WITH THE POLICING OF 1,850 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF TERRITORIAL WATERS AND WITH THE INTERCEPTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

POLICE MUSEUM CURATOR, MR LEWIS NG, SAID: "PLANS ARE NOW IN HAND TO INTRODUCE WORK OF THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT. PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING PTU PERSONNEL UNDERGOING TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE.

"A RECENT ADDITION TO THE ORIENTATION GALLERY, WHICH IS THE MOST POPULAR FOCAL POINT, ARE THREE LITHOGRAPHS WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED IN THE ORIGINAL STANLEY POLICE STATION FOR OVER 130 YEARS. SUCH VALUABLE HIGHLIGHTS HAVE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF NUMEROUS VISITORS," HE ADDED.

"TWO OF THE LITHOGRAPHS FEATURE HILLS AND HOUSES, WHILE THE OTHER ONE IS A GENERAL VIEW OF STANLEY. THESE PICTURES ARE ALL SAID TO HAVE BEEN DRAWN BY LIEUTENANT R.E. COLLINSON IN 1845."

ANOTHER TWO UNIQUE EXHIBITS NOW ON DISPLAY IN THE BASEMENT AND LOBBY OF THE MUSEUM ARE A PAIR OF ANTIQUE TELEPHONES WHICH WERE INSTALLED IN THE STANLEY PRISON IN 1940. AT THAT TIME, THEY PROVIDED A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE STANLEY AND THE MA HANG PRISONS AND STANLEY POLICE STATION.

AN ALBUM, WHICH BELONGED TO A GAZETTED OFFICER, DONALD BURINGHAM, WHO SHOT DEAD A TIGER NEAR THE SHEUNG SHUI POLICE STATION IN 1915, HAS BEEN LOANED TO THE MUSEUM ON A PERMANENT BASIS BY THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST.

INSIDE THE ALBUM ARE 200 PICTURES DEPICTING THE LIFE OF MR BURINGHAM WHILST SERVING AS THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. HE WAS EVENTUALLY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL IN 1936.

AT THE TWO OTHER GALLERIES - THE NARCOTICS GALLERY AND THE TRIAD SOCIETIES GALLERY - THERE ARE PICTURES AND EXHIBITS OF IMPORTANT DRUG SEIZURES AND A HISTORIAL RECORD OF TRIAD SOCIETIES.

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS BETWEEN FRIDAY (APRIL 13) AND MONDAY (APRIL 16). IT WILL RE-OPEN FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION ON TUESDAY.

NORMAL OPENING HOURS ARE 9 AM AND 5 PM FROM WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY AND 2 PM TO 5 PM ON TUESDAY. THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS, TUESDAY MORNINGS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

FOR ENQUIRIES AND APPOINTMENTS FOR GUIDED TOURS, PLEASE CALL 849 7019.

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EXOTIC PLANTS ON DISPLAY

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VISITORS TO THE TAOIST CHING CHUNG MONASTERY TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WILL BE TREATED TO SOME 400 EXOTIC POTTED PLANTS.

PRESENTED IN FINE TRADITIONAL CHINESE BONSAI STYLE, THE PLANTS ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE 1990 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW WHICH RUNS UNTIL APRIL 22 (SUNDAY).

A MINIATURE CHINESE HACKBERRY FOREST OF MORE THAN 200-YEAR-OLD AND A RARE 400-YEAR-OLD HAIRY WILLOW ELM ARE THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION AT THE EXHIBITION.

APART FROM THE RICH COLLECTION OF POTTED PLANTS FROM THE MONASTERY THE SHOW ALSO FEATURES WINNING ENTRIES TO A BONSAI COMPETITION HELD EARLIER IN TUEN MUN.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, AT 11 AM TOMORROW.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR LEO KWAN; THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEISURE SERVICES) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR DAVID CHIU; AND THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MR Y.W. LIU.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAOIST CHING CHUNG MONASTERY, THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. LTD.

THE 11-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1990 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE TAOIST CHING CHUNG MONASTERY, TUEN MUN.

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POK FU LAM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME ON AGENDA  
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS MODIFICATIONS TO THE POK FU LAM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE MODIFICATIONS INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROPOSED EXCLUSIVE USAGE BY HEAVY VEHICLES OF A SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND BONHAM ROAD; AND THE WIDENING OF THE PAVEMENT AT HIGH STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH POK FU LAM ROAD FOR THE SAFETY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

MEMBERS WILL REVIEW CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S EXISTING FARE STRUCTURE AND ITS FARE INCREASES FOR 1990.

THEY WILL ALSO EXAMINE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE JUNCTION OF ICE HOUSE STREET AND LOWER ALBERT ROAD, AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO BUILDINGS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIGNALISED CROSSING AT THE JUNCTION OF BONHAM ROAD AND CAINE ROAD, AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE UPGRADING AND DUALING OF THE CONNAUGHT ROAD PROJECT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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DB COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS  
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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE WORK ON THE CHOI HA ROAD SOUTHERN EXTENSION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1990

- 12 -

CAREERS TALKS FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL GIVE A SERIES OF TALKS TO POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS ON CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN NOW AND MAY.

"THE TALKS ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP TERTIARY STUDENTS POSTED ON THE LATEST JOB MARKET SITUATIONS AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE NECESSARY JOB-HUNTING SKILLS," THE LABOUR OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (HEES), MRS MIRANDA LAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THESE TALKS ALSO SERVE TO ACQUAINT STUDENTS WITH THE WIDE-RANGING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HEES WHICH THEY WILL FIND MOST USEFUL WHEN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT," SHE ADDED.

A TOTAL OF 15 TALKS WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR SOME 2,000 FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT SHUE YAN COLLEGE AND SEVEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

"EMPLOYERS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECRUIT SUITABLE STAFF BY PLACING VACANCY ORDERS WITH THE HEES," MRS LAM NOTED.

"THE VACANCIES WILL BE INTRODUCED TO STUDENTS DURING THE CAREERS TALKS AND INTERESTED STUDENTS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE EMPLOYERS FOR INTERVIEWS.

"WE NOW USE COMPUTER TO REGISTER THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF JOB-SEEKERS AND TO MATCH THEM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VACANCIES ON HAND," SHE EXPLAINED.

IN ADDITION, THE HEES SENDS ITS MONTHLY PUBLICATION "PRIME JOBS IN HONG KONG" TO ABOUT 600 OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES, TERTIARY INSTITUTES AND STUDENT BODIES TO HELP ATTRACT HONG KONG STUDENTS TO RETURN AND WORK IN THE TERRITORY.

ANOTHER PUBLICATION, "CANDIDATE PROFILE", WHICH CONTAINS ESSENTIAL PARTICULARS OF SELECTED REGISTRANTS, IS DISTRIBUTED TO SOME 1,000 EMPLOYERS EVERY MONTH.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, EMPLOYERS AND POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES MAY CALL AT THE HEES AT HARBOUR BUILDING, SIXTH FLOOR, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, OR BY TELEPHONING 852 3232 OR 852 3233.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1990

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SHEUNG SHUI SITE  
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A GOVERNMENT SITE IN AREA 28A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,150 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES NOT LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND/OR A FEE-PAYING LORRY PARK.

HOWEVER, CONTAINER VEHICLES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE ABOVE PURPOSES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 27.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1990

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY  
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS,  
MR FRANCIS MAUDE, ON  
APRIL 11, 1990

MINISTER OF STATE GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE ON APRIL 11, 1990:

MR MAUDE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WELL, THIS HAS BEEN MY THIRD VISIT TO HONG KONG. AS ALWAYS WHEN I COME TO HONG KONG, I'VE BEEN HUGELY IMPRESSED BY THE DYNAMISM OF THE PLACE; I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE INVESTMENT THAT IS GOING ON; THE LONG TERM PLANNING THAT IS GOING ON HERE. I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE BRIEFING I HAVE BEEN GIVEN ON THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, SHOWING THAT HONG KONG IS CASTING ITS MIND AND ITS PLANS WELL FORWARD INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

I HAVE NOTICED, ALSO, THE INCREDIBLE VITALITY, AS ALWAYS, OF REALLY ALL ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S LIFE. NOT JUST THE COMMERCIAL AND THE INDUSTRIAL LIFE OF HONG KONG, BUT THE WORK ON EDUCATION - SHOWN IN MY VISIT TO THE POLYTECHNIC THIS MORNING, IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH STUDENTS THERE; WORK ON HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - AGAIN SHOWN BY MY VISIT TO WONG TAI SIN, YESTERDAY. IT ALL SEEMS, TO ME, TO BE EVIDENCE THAT HONG KONG IS LOOKING FORWARD, IS NOT LOOKING BACK; IT IS CASTING ITS EYES, AS I SAY, WELL FORWARD INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. AND AS ALWAYS, I FIND AN INSPIRATION IN HONG KONG'S 'CAN DO' ATTITUDE. IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU SIMPLY DON'T HEAR THE WORD 'CAN'T'.

ON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, I TAKE BACK RENEWED DETERMINATION THAT A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND TO THIS PROBLEM. IT IS GOOD, OF COURSE, THAT THERE ARE MORE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG THAN THERE ARE ARRIVING - THAT'S ENCOURAGING. BUT THE CENTRAL MESSAGE HAS TO BE, AS IT HAS HAD TO BE THROUGHOUT, THAT FOR BOAT PEOPLE COMING HERE, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR THEM BUT TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. AND THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BACK IN VIETNAM. AND THAT MEANS THAT THE POLICY OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION HAS TO UNDERPIN THE WHOLE OF OUR APPROACH. AND THAT IS THE APPROACH NOT JUST OF US, BUT OF THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ON THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE THE MESSAGE I SHALL TAKE BACK IS THAT HONG KONG HAS GREATLY APPRECIATED THE FIRM STANCE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN; THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FIRM SUPPORT TO THE TERRITORY. THE MESSAGE THAT THE PACKAGE HAS GIVEN HOPE TO HONG KONG, AND THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR HONG KONG SHOULD IT FAIL.

I BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN GIVEN A FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL BOOST BY THE ACCUMULATED PLEDGES AND POTENTIAL PLEDGES THAT I WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE YESTERDAY FROM ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD. AND THAT SIMPLY REFLECTS THE WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INTEREST THAT THERE IS, THE STAKE THAT THERE IS, IN HONG KONG FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

ANOTHER THEME WHICH HAS EMERGED IN MY MANY DISCUSSIONS IS THE DESIRE HERE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINUING AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CHINA. WELL, I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH THAT. THE JOINT DECLARATION COMMITS THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA TO WORK TOGETHER CLOSELY AND SINCERELY FOR HONG KONG'S LONG TERM FUTURE, TO GUARANTEE HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. WE ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THAT, AND CHINA HAS CONTINUALLY REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE INTERESTS OF CHINA, OF BRITAIN AND OF HONG KONG, ARE IDENTICAL IN THIS RESPECT, AND THEY'RE THE SAME - THAT THE LONG TERM SUCCESS OF HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE. IT IS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST TO PICK QUARRELS. WELL, QUITE APART FROM THE LEGAL OBLIGATION TO WORK TOGETHER FOR HONG KONG'S SUCCESS, THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO FEEL A DEEP PERSONAL ATTACHMENT AND COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG. RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG IS NOT THE LEAST DEMANDING NOR THE LEAST STIMULATING OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THERE IS NO PART OF MY JOB THAT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN WORKING FOR THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG. THANK YOU.

EMILY LAU (FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW): MINISTER, I HAVE GOT TWO QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT YOU MADE YESTERDAY. THE FIRST ONE IS, THERE SEEMED TO BE QUITE A LOT OF CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT YOU ANNOUNCED BECAUSE MANY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CONTACTED THE VARIOUS CONSULATES HERE AND SOME SAID THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, AND SOME FEEL QUITE ANGRY AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SO WOULD YOU PLEASE CLARIFY FOR US, ON WHAT SORT OF TALKS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS CONDUCTED, AND WHAT KIND OF RESPONSES HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

AND THE NEXT ONE IS A QUESTION CONCERNING THE DRAFT BILL - THE BILL PUBLISHED LAST WEEK, AND I AM REFERRING TO SECTION 1(3) STATING THAT: THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY, BY DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO THE GOVERNOR, LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE RECOMMENDED TO HIM IN ANY SPECIFIED PERIOD. AND THIS CLAUSE GIVES CONCERN TO THE FACT THAT MAYBE, AT ANY TIME, THE SECRETARY OF STATE CAN DECIDE TO SCRAP THE WHOLE BILL; YOU KNOW, THE PROPOSAL TO GIVE PASSPORTS TO HONG KONG PEOPLE. CAN YOU CLARIFY THAT, PLEASE?

MR MAUDE: WELL ON THE FIRST POINTS YOU MAKE - YES, I SAW THE RESPONSE THAT SOME CONSULATE GENERALS SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN. THE FACT IS, OF COURSE, THAT POLICIES ARE MADE, NOT IN CONSULATE GENERALS BUT IN NATIONAL CAPITALS, AND THERE HAS BEEN A PROCESS OF DISCUSSION WITH OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES GOING BACK TO JANUARY, AND INDEED BEFORE. INITIAL APPROACHES WERE MADE TO NATIONAL CAPITALS BEFORE DOUGLAS HURD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR PACKAGE BACK IN DECEMBER. AND CLEARLY, WE DO NOT GO AROUND MAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THIS SORT WITHOUT BEING CLEAR THAT THEY REFLECT THE WISHES AND VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENTS WE REFER TO. SO I HOPE THAT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR. EVERYTHING IN MY STATEMENT YESTERDAY STANDS FIRM.

THE SECOND POINT YOU MAKE ON THE CONTENT OF THE BILL, THE INTENTION OF THIS CLAUSE OF THE BILL IS NOT TO ENABLE THE SCHEME TO BE IN ANY WAY ABORTED BEFORE IT IS COMPLETE, AND THAT COULD NOT BE THE CASE. IT IS TO REFLECT THE ULTIMATE DISCRETION OF THE HOME SECRETARY IN THE GRANTING OF CITIZENSHIP. THE NUMBER OF HEADS OF FAMILY TO BE GIVEN PASSPORTS IS 50,000; THAT IS AN ABSOLUTELY SOLID COMMITMENT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

EMILY LAU: BUT IF LABOUR SHOULD COME INTO POWER, SAY IN 1992, CAN THEY USE THIS CLAUSE AND JUST SCRAP THE BILL? I MEAN, BY THAT TIME MAYBE NOT ALL THE 50,000 PASSPORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

MR MAUDE: WELL IT SEEMS TO ME A MOST IMPROBABLE EVENTUALITY, ANYWAY, BUT IN THAT HIGHLY UNLIKELY CIRCUMSTANCE, NO, IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THE CLAUSE TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. BUT IT MUST BE FOR THE ULTIMATE DISCRETION OF THE HOME SECRETARY TO DECIDE WHO HAS A PASSPORT.

JOHN ELLIOTT (FINANCIAL TIMES): I DON'T THINK THE PASSPORT SITUATION IS CLEAR, COULD YOU TELL US PRECISELY WHAT PLEDGES, AND YOU USE THE WORD PLEDGES, WHAT PLEDGES YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM WHAT COUNTRIES FOR WHAT NUMBERS? PRECISE, DEFINITE, PLEDGES?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I MEAN, NOT EVERY COUNTRY HAS GIVEN A PLEDGE IN TERMS OF PRECISE NUMBERS, NOR WOULD IT BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THEM TO. SINGAPORE HAS, THERE IS A PROPOSAL IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH ALSO REFLECTS A DEFINITE NUMBER, ALTHOUGH THAT'S ONLY A PROPOSAL AT THIS STAGE, BUT THE APPROACH BY OTHER COUNTRIES IS TO SAY THERE ARE PEOPLE WORKING IN HONG KONG FOR FRENCH, BELGIAN, GERMAN COMPANIES, AND IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE SECURITY TO STAY THERE. NOW, THEY DON'T SAY THAT THERE IS A LIMIT ON THAT, THEY LIMIT IT TO THE PEOPLE WORKING FOR THOSE FIRMS, AND SO IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO PUT DEFINITE NUMBERS ON IT. BUT THE SORT OF NUMBERS ONE IS TALKING ABOUT ARE OF THE SORT OF DIMENSIONS I TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY.

JOHN ELLIOTT: HAVE YOU A PLEDGE FROM THE FRENCH FOR 150,000? YOU SAID YESTERDAY YOU HAD.

MR MAUDE: NO, I DIDN'T .....

JOHN ELLIOTT: SORRY, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED?

MR MAUDE: NO, I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I SAID THAT THERE WAS A PROPOSAL BY THE FRENCH WHICH COULD MEAN UP TO FIFTEEN HUNDRED PASSPORTS, WHICH IS NOT TO SAY BY ANY MEANS, UNLESS YOU USE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN A VERY BIZARRE WAY, THAT THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE PLEDGE TO GIVE FIFTEEN HUNDRED PASSPORTS.

EMMA BOYDE (REUTERS): WHAT CHANCE IS THERE THAT ANY OF THESE PLEDGES OR WHATEVER YOU LIKE TO CALL THEM, MIGHT NOT BE PASSED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES?

MR MAUDE: ONE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T COMMIT OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO PUT THOSE PLEDGES INTO EFFECT, BUT IT'S OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS INTENDING TO PUT THAT SCHEME INTO EFFECT, IT'S OUR UNDERSTANDING, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, IN MY STATEMENT, THAT GERMANY, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG ARE ABOUT TO FINALISE SUCH SCHEMES. NOW, IT WILL BE FOR THEM TO ANNOUNCE THE DETAILS OF THOSE SCHEMES IN THEIR OWN WAY AT THEIR OWN TIME. BUT THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE MEASURES FOR HONG KONG AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AS CONCERNED TO DO WHAT THEY CAN IN A MORE LIMITED WAY THAN US FOR THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

AU PAK KUEN (HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY): EXCEPT THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE, AND THOSE YOU ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY, IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC PLAN OR PROGRAMME FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, LATER ON, TO KEEP HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD?

MR MAUDE: WELL, NO SPECIFIC PLAN AT THIS STAGE, BUT WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND I, IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE WORKING HARD AND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE. WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT A GOOD DEAL OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE LIES IN ITS OWN HANDS. THERE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE ABOUT ITS FUTURE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK, PARTICULARLY THE ELECTIONS FOR 1991. IT'S, I THINK, EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, THAT HONG KONG SHOWS HOW THOSE ELECTIONS CAN SUCCEED AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WILL EMERGE FROM THAT CAN BE SUCCESSFUL, AND I THINK IT WILL BE VERY MUCH FOR HONG KONG TO TAKE ITS FUTURE, AND MAKE OF ITS FUTURE WHAT IT CAN, AND KNOWING THE AMOUNT OF HUMAN INGENUITY THAT RESIDES IN HONG KONG I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY SUCCESSFUL INDEED.

SALLY BLYTH (RTHK): MR MAUDE, YOU HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF GROUPS HERE AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES? WHY IS NOT A SPECIAL PROVISION BEING GIVEN FOR THEM IN THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE? THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ITSELF RECOMMENDED THAT A SPECIAL CASE SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE ETHNIC MINORITIES.

MR MAUDE: YES INDEED IT DID, AND WE LOOKED VERY CAREFULLY AT THAT. OBVIOUSLY THE ETHNIC MINORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY UNDER THE GENERAL SCHEME IN ANY EVENT, AND MANY OF THEM MAY WELL QUALIFY. THAT WILL BE FOR THOSE OPERATING THE SCHEME TO DECIDE. BUT IN ANY EVENT YOU WILL BE AWARE OF THE ASSURANCE WHICH MY PREDECESSOR GAVE, I THINK ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO NOW, WHICH STAND ABSOLUTELY FIRM NOW AND IS AS SOLID NOW AS IT WAS THEN, WHICH IS VERY SOLID.

ADRIAN BROWN (TV-AM): MR MAUDE, DOES THAT PROMISE ALSO EXTEND TO WAR WIDOWS? BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE NATIONALITY BILL.

MR MAUDE: NO INDEED, I AM AWARE OF THE ARGUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD ON THAT, THEY ARE BEING LOOKED AT VERY CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

ADRIAN BROWN: SO CAN YOU GIVE A PROMISE THAT THEY WILL BE MADE A SPECIAL CASE?

MR MAUDE: NO, I CAN'T GIVE A PROMISE, ALL I CAN SAY IS WHAT I HAVE SAID.

DEBORAH WANG (NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO OF USA): I AM INTERESTED IN YOUR CHARACTERISATION THAT HONG KONG AND CHINA AND BRITAIN'S INTERESTS ARE THE SAME, ESPECIALLY GIVEN CHINA'S RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT, THREATS ABOUT THE COLONY BEING USED AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSION, AND THEIR STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE AS BEING ESSENTIALLY TANTAMOUNT TO CREATING INSTABILITY IN THE COLONY. DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT, AT LEAST ON THOSE TWO ISSUES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I THINK WE HAVE THE SAME LONG-TERM INTERESTS. WE MAY NOT SEE IT IN QUITE THE SAME WAY AT THE MOMENT, WHICH IS WHY WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TALK TO THEM, TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT THE INTENTION OF THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE, FAR FROM CREATING INSTABILITY, IS TO RESPOND TO A DEEPLY FELT DESIRE AND NEED OF HONG KONG TO GIVE PEOPLE THE ASSURANCE TO STAY HERE. I THINK WE NEED TO CARRY ON EXPLAINING THAT TO THE CHINESE, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IF WE CARRY ON WE SHALL SUCCEED.

DEBORAH WANG: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERISE THEIR RESPONSE, ARE THEY SIMPLY BEING, DO THEY NOT UNDERSTAND? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING? OR ARE THEY SIMPLY BEING UNREASONABLE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I, IT MAY BE THAT WE NEED TO CARRY ON EXPLAINING IT FURTHER. BUT THEY HAVE MISINTERPRETED I THINK, WELL I KNOW THEY HAVE MISINTERPRETED THE INTENTION BEHIND THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE, AND WE SHALL HOPE TO CORRECT THAT INTERPRETATION.

TAMMY LUK (SING TAO): BUT YOUR COLLEAGUE ROBERT ADLEY CRITICISED THAT WHAT YOU HAVE SAID OVER THE RIGHT OF ABODE IS PROVOKING THE CHINESE. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THAT?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I MADE A COMMENT ON THAT SHORTLY AFTER HE MADE THOSE REMARKS, AND BROADLY I DON'T FIND VERY MUCH SUPPORT FOR HIS POINT OF VIEW IN HONG KONG, I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SUPPORT FOR HIS VIEW IN LONDON, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR IT IN PEKING.

STEVE VINES (OBSERVER): MR MAUDE, COULD YOU SAY WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE IF THE NATIONALITY BILL DOESN'T PASS THROUGH PARLIAMENT? YOU SAID THEY WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS FOR HONG KONG, COULD YOU SPELL IT OUT?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I DON'T THINK I NEED TO SPELL THEM OUT. WE HAVE BROUGHT THIS PACKAGE FORWARD IN RESPONSE TO THE ARGUMENTS FROM HONG KONG, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S STABILITY. AND I HOPE THAT THOSE ARGUMENTS WILL BE AS PERSUASIVE WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT AS THEY HAVE BEEN WITH US.

STEVE VINES: BUT WHAT WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN IF THE BILL DOESN'T PASS?

MR MAUDE: WELL I MEAN, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY POINT IN EXCESSIVE DOOM WATCHING AT THIS STAGE. HONG KONG IS A VERY RESILIENT PLACE, BUT IT HAS MADE A SPECIAL PLEA AND I THINK A PERSUASIVE PLEA, THAT THIS SET OF MEASURES IS NECESSARY. I BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY, AND THAT IS THE ARGUMENT THAT I SHALL TAKE TO PARLIAMENT.

NORMAN REES (ITN): PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE BRITISH PUBLIC, OR THE MAJORITY OF IT, SIMPLY DON'T WANT HONG KONG IMMIGRANTS. GIVEN THAT ATTITUDE, WHAT MAKES YOU SO CONFIDENT IN YOUR ASSERTION THAT THIS NATIONALITY PACKAGE WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THE HOUSE?

MR MAUDE: WELL I HAVEN'T BEEN ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THE HOUSE, I BELIEVE IT WILL, I BELIEVE THE ARGUMENTS ARE PERSUASIVE, AND I BELIEVE THE MAJORITY WILL SUPPORT IT. BUT NO MINISTER CAN EVER TAKE PARLIAMENT FOR GRANTED, THAT IS THE THING ABOUT ELECTED ASSEMBLIES, I THINK THE ARGUMENTS THAT WE HAVE, AND THAT HONG KONG HAS PUT FORWARD, WILL CARRY THE DAY. SO FAR AS PUBLIC OPINION IS CONCERNED, I THINK THAT ALL OF US HAVE FOUND THAT THIS HASN'T IN FACT BEEN A VERY HIGH PROFILE ISSUE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SINCE WE MADE THE PROPOSALS BACK IN DECEMBER. IT HAS BEEN IN WESTMINSTER, AMONG CERTAIN PEOPLE, BUT NOT IN THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. AND I THINK THERE AREN'T, IN THE COUNTRY AT LARGE, VERY STRONG VIEWS HELD IN EITHER DIRECTION BY MORE THAN A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE. BUT I BELIEVE THE ARGUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAVE BEEN USED BY HONG KONG, WILL BE PERSUASIVE WITH, I BELIEVE, A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NORMAN REES: IT HAS BEEN AN EMOTIVE ISSUE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND GIVEN THATCHER'S VERY POOR POLITICAL STANDING AT THE MOMENT, WHAT WILL YOU BE SAYING TO THOSE TORY MP'S ON THE SIDE ON THIS ISSUE FOLLOWING YOUR VISIT HERE?

MR MAUDE: WELL I SHALL MAKE TWO POINTS TO THEM. ONE IS THERE IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL BRITISH INTEREST IN HONG KONG, AND SO IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF US MEETING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO A COLONY TO DO WHAT WE CAN FOR ITS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, ALTHOUGH THAT'S THE SECOND ARGUMENT WE SHALL PUT, BUT THERE IS ACTUALLY ALSO A VERY DISTINCT SELF-INTEREST HERE FOR BRITAIN, IN ENSURING THAT THIS TERRITORY, IN WHICH THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF BRITISH INVESTMENT, WHICH IS A SUBSTANTIAL MARKET FOR BRITISH GOODS AND SERVICES, THAT IT REMAINS SUCCESSFUL.

SIMON MACKLIN (SCMP): MR MAUDE, SINCE YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THE BILL WILL PASS, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU HAVE PLANNED THAT BRITAIN MIGHT DO FOR HONG KONG IN CASE THE BILL ISN'T PASSED?

MR MAUDE: WELL I'M NOT GOING TO PRE-EMPT THE DECISION OF PARLIAMENT, I BELIEVE THAT PARLIAMENT WILL SUPPORT THE MEASURE, AND WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PERSUADE OUR COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT THAT IT SHOULD PASS.

SIMON MACKLIN: IS THIS ALL YOU HAVE TO OFFER? THERE IS NOTHING ELSE?

MR MAUDE: WELL I AM GOING TO TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME. WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO IN GETTING THIS MEASURE THROUGH PARLIAMENT, MRS THATCHER HAS A VERY CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG, SHE'S DETERMINED THAT IT SHOULD GET THROUGH, AND WE SHALL ALL DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET IT THROUGH.

NORMAN REES (ITN): WHY IS IT THEN MR MAUDE THAT YOU SAY SHE WON'T RESIGN IF SHE LOSES THE VOTE ON THIS, THAT SHE ....

MR MAUDE: WELL, I'M NOT SURE, IF THAT WERE TO BE TAKEN AS A MEASURE OF ANYBODY'S COMMITMENT TO SOMETHING, I THINK IT IS A PRETTY ODD MEASURE. SHE IS DETERMINED TO GET IT THROUGH, AND I BELIEVE WE WILL.

FOO CHOY PING (THE STRAIT TIMES): MR FRANCIS MAUDE, YOU SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT YOU ARE QUITE CONFIDENT OF CHANGING CHINA'S VIEW ON THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF THIS CONFIDENCE, ARE YOU NOT BEING OVER-OPTIMISTIC?

MR MAUDE: WELL I AM NATURALLY AN OPTIMISTIC CHAP AND I HOPE THAT MY OPTIMISM IS JUSTIFIED. I DIDN'T SAY I WAS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT CHINA WOULD CHANGE HER VIEW ON IT, BUT WE SHALL DO WHAT WE CAN BY RATIONAL ARGUMENT BY SIMPLY STATING THE POSITION TO CHANGE CHINA'S MIND ON THIS.

FOO CHOY PING: IF CHINA REMAINS STUBBORN, WHAT CAN BRITAIN DO?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I MEAN, YOU CAN'T FORCE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS IF THEY CHOSE NOT TO. ALL YOU CAN DO IS DEPLOY SENSIBLE RATIONAL ARGUMENTS AND HOPE THAT THEY FIND THEIR TARGET, AND THAT'S WHAT WE SHALL DO. BUT WE SHALL CARRY ON WITH OUR NATIONALITY PACKAGE IN ANY EVENT.

SARAH YUEN (ATV): TWO POINTS, THE FIRST ONE, IT SEEMS BY WHAT YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE IS BEING SEEN AS AN END IN ITSELF, AS IN THE WHOLE SOLUTION TO THE WHOLE PROBLEM, I THINK MY COLLEAGUE WAS ASKING WHAT OTHER MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN CASE THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE DOESN'T GO THROUGH? AND THE SECOND ONE IS, YOU SAY THAT AS MUCH IS BEING DONE AS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE CHINA'S MIND, BUT IS IT BEING DONE STRONG ENOUGH? I MEAN WE KEEP HEARING ATTACKS FROM CHINA, AND THEN KIND OF SOFTLY WORDED REMARKS FROM ENGLAND, IS IT ENOUGH?

MR MAUDE: WELL IF ONE, I REMEMBER, JUST BEFORE I ARRIVED HERE, I SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT CHINA'S ATTITUDE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HELPFUL, AND I WAS IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED FOR BEING PROVOCATIVE AND PICKING A FIGHT. SO YOU CAN'T WIN IN THIS BUSINESS. EITHER YOU ARE PICKING A FIGHT OR YOU ARE BEING FEEBLE. THE FACT IS WHAT WE DO CONSISTENTLY IS TO PUT OUR ARGUMENTS, AS I HAVE JUST SAID, QUIETLY, FIRMLY, AND I BELIEVE PERSUASIVELY, AND I BELIEVE THAT IF WE CARRY ON DOING THAT THE ARGUMENTS WILL WIN.

SARAH YUEN: AND THE REST OF THE QUESTION - THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE BEING SEEN AS AN END IN ITSELF?

MR MAUDE: I BEG YOUR PARDON, IT'S CERTAINLY NOT SEEN AS AN END IN ITSELF, BUT IT HAS BEEN UPPERMOST IN HONG KONG'S MIND AND VOICES AS THE THING WHICH GREAT BRITAIN CAN DO TO HELP HONG KONG, AND WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THAT AND WE SHALL HOPE TO DELIVER IT FOR HONG KONG. SO FAR AS OTHER MEASURES ARE CONCERNED, DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR NEXT YEAR, WHICH I THINK ARE IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG, THEY RESOLVE SOME UNCERTAINTY, AND ENABLE THOSE CONCERNED IN THE PROCESS TO WORK NOW, TO START WORKING TO MAKE THAT A SUCCESS. I BELIEVE ACTUALLY THAT'S AN INDICATION OF HOW HONG KONG CAN WORK TO HELP ITSELF. THERE IS A GOOD DEAL MORE I WOULD SAY THAT HONG KONG CAN DO FOR ITSELF THAN PERHAPS BRITAIN CAN DO.

MABLE CHAN (TVB): MR MAUDE, MANY HONG KONG PEOPLE'S REACTION TO THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE IS THAT IF AND WHEN THEY DO GET THE BRITISH PASSPORTS THEY HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE 1997 BECAUSE CHINA IS NOT GOING TO RECOGNISE THEM, THEY HAVE SAID THAT MANY MANY TIMES. AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THIS KIND OF REACTION, AND WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THESE PEOPLE?

MR MAUDE: WELL WHAT I SAY TO THEM IS THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION EMBODIES THE RIGHT TO ENTER AND LEAVE HONG KONG. CHINA HAS CONSISTENTLY REAFFIRMED IT'S COMMITMENT TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND SO I WOULD SAY THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE PASSPORTS ISSUED UNDER THIS SCHEME WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER AND LEAVE AFTER 1997 AND SO IT IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE ANY SORT OF NEED TO LEAVE BEFORE THEN?

MABLE CHAN: ARE YOU SAYING THAT CHINA HAS NO POWER TO STOP THEM LEAVING AFTER 1997 IF THEY CHOSE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, IT IS SIMPLY THE CASE THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO ENTER AND LEAVE HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

HARVEY PONG (WAH KIU YAT PAO): (INAUDIBLE)

MR MAUDE: SORRY, CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN, THERE IS SO MUCH CAMERA CLICKING, I MISSED THE QUESTION.

HARVEY PONG: I WONDER IF THE ATTITUDE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TOWARDS THE PASSPORT PACKAGE WILL AFFECT THE PASSAGE OF THE NATIONALITY BILL IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT?

MR MAUDE: I THINK IT WILL, IN THAT THE MAJORITY VIEW WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO ME WHILE I HAVE BEEN HERE IS, AS I SAID AT THE OUTSET, OF APPRECIATION FOR THE STANCE WHICH THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN, AND THE VIEW THAT THIS IS A VERY HELPFUL MEASURE FOR HONG KONG. IT MAY NOT BE AS LARGE A PACKAGE AS HONG KONG WOULD HAVE HOPED, NONETHELESS IT IS VERY HELPFUL, IN THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY BAD NEWS FOR HONG KONG, AND HENCE FOR BRITISH INTERESTS, IF IT FAILED, SO I THINK THAT MESSAGE WHICH HAS COME OUT FROM HONG KONG IS ONE THAT WILL BE PERSUASIVE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL.

TSUI SIU WA (NEXT MAGAZINE): I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW ON MISS LAU WAI HING'S QUESTIONS. I AM NOT SURE THAT I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANSWER CORRECTLY. AS YOU SAY, WE ARE STILL NOT SURE, 100 PER CENT SURE, THE BILL WILL BE PASSED OR NOT. BUT EVEN IF THE BILL IS PASSED, IF ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY COMES TO POWER, OR IF EVEN THE PRESENT LEADING PARTY CHANGES ITS MIND, IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD, AT ANY TIME, CANCEL THE WHOLE PACKAGE?

MR MAUDE: NO, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THAT. THIS IS A COMMITMENT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AND WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL HONOUR.

KONG LAI KWAN (COMMERCIAL RADIO): I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE QUESTION, IN CANTONESE, CAN YOU PLEASE ..... 'MR MINISTER, YESTERDAY YOU MET SOME CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEY WANTED MORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEATS TO BE INCREASED SO THAT THEY WOULD BE INCLUDED. THE BASIC LAW STIPULATES THAT THERE IS ALREADY A BASELINE ON THE NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEATS AFTER 1997. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU IMPLY THAT THE BASIC LAW CAN BE AMENDED AT SOME LATER STAGE?'

MR MAUDE: WELL IT IS CERTAINLY THE CASE THAT THE BASIC LAW CAN BE AMENDED AT A LATER STAGE, AND WE HAVE SAID THAT AFTER THE 1991 ELECTIONS IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH OPEN FOR US TO GO BACK TO THE CHINESE TO URGE THAT BECAUSE THE START OF DEMOCRACY WHICH IS EMBODIED IN THE 1991 ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A SUCCESS, AS I AM SURE IT WILL DO, THEREFORE IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION FURTHER.

LEO LAW (ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS): IF I AM CORRECT, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY INDICATED LAST DECEMBER THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD DEVISE A SCHEME FOR THE BRITISH COMPANIES IN HONG KONG SO THAT, ACCORDING TO THAT SCHEME, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND PEOPLE TO THE UK FOR TRAINING OR SECONDMENT, AND THAT AFTER A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THEY WOULD OBTAIN A BRITISH PASSPORT. BUT I CAN'T FIND THIS SCHEME IN THE EXPLANATION BOOK OF THE BILL. SO WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO DO?

MR MAUDE: YES, YOU CAN'T FIND IT BECAUSE IT ISN'T IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ABOUT THE BILL, NOR IS IT IN THE BILL, BUT WE ARE STILL LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SUCH A SCHEME IN ANY EVENT.

LEO LAW: YOU MEAN THAT IN ADDITION TO THE BILL OR THE EXPLANATION FOR THE QUOTAS, THERE MAY BE ANOTHER SCHEME WHICH ALLOWS THE BRITISH COMPANIES HERE TO SEND THEIR PEOPLE TO SEND THEIR PEOPLE TO THE UK TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS?

MR MAUDE: WELL THE BILL, AS IT IS, STANDS ON ITS OWN, A SCHEME FOR 50,000 HEADS OF FAMILY AND THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM EXPLAINS HOW THE SCHEME WILL WORK. WHAT WE ARE NOW LOOKING AT IS TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE SORT OF SCHEME, WHICH WOULD BE A VERY LIMITED SCHEME, THE SORT OF SCHEME WHICH DOUGLAS HURD MENTIONED IN HIS STATEMENT BACK IN DECEMBER.

LEO LAW: SO WHAT QUOTA WILL YOU BE OFFERING?

MR MAUDE: WELL WE ARE LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITIES AT THE MOMENT, AND YOU WON'T DRAW ME OUT ON IT ANY FURTHER. BUT I WOULD STRESS THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY LIMITED SCHEME.

SALLY BLYTH (RTHK): ON TOP OF THE 50,000?

MR MAUDE: WELL AS I SAY THE BILL WITH ITS 50,000 PASSPORTS IS STANDING ON ITS OWN AND COMPLETE IN ITSELF, SO WE ARE LOOKING AT A SCHEME SEPARATELY FROM THAT.

PAUL HARRINGTON (HONG KONG STANDARD): I WOULD LIKE TO ASK, FIRST, WHEN ARE DETAILS OF THAT SCHEME LIKELY TO BE MADE AVAILABLE? AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK, ON THE QUESTION OF BOAT PEOPLE - YOU SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT ON MANDATORY REPATRIATION WITH HANOI IS STILL IN PLACE BUT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CHOOSES NOT TO ACTIVATE IT AT THE MOMENT. YET IT SEEMS THAT MR EMRYS DAVIES, BRITAIN'S AMBASSADOR IN HANOI, HAS SAID THAT TALKS WERE CONTINUING SLOWLY WITH VIETNAM TO REACH JUST SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THE QUESTION, REALLY, IS: DOES THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY AGREE TO ACCEPT MANDATORY RETURNS, IF BRITAIN DECIDES IT IS NECESSARY?

MR MAUDE: ON YOUR FIRST POINT - WHEN CAN YOU EXPECT AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SCHEME? NOT YET. I MEAN, THERE IS A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE ON IT AND WE ARE STILL LOOKING TO SEE HOW THE POSSIBILITIES CAN BE SORTED; WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SUCH A SCHEME AS THIS, AND WE WILL SAY SOMETHING FURTHER AS AND WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO.

ON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND MANDATORY REPATRIATION - THERE IS IN EXISTENCE AN AGREEMENT, FROM JUNE OF LAST YEAR, WHICH PROVIDES FOR, ON A BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND VIETNAM, ALLOWS FOR THE NON-VOLUNTARY RETURN OF SCREENED OUT NON-REFUGEES. WHAT WE ARE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH VIETNAM ABOUT IS THE WAY IN WHICH THIS IS CARRIED OUT. AT THE MOMENT THEY HAVE SAID - AND THIS WAS WHAT WE WERE DISCUSSING WHEN I WAS IN HANOI TWO MONTHS AGO - THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD WANT HONG KONG TO EXCLUDE THE USE OF FORCE IN ADVANCE. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THAT IS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. THIS IS A PROCESS WHICH IS CARRIED OUT DAY-BY-DAY ACROSS THE WORLD, AND IT IS PART OF A COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT BACK THEIR OWN PEOPLE. AND IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE - AS YOU ARE BY DEFINITION - WHO ARE NOT VOLUNTEERS, YOU CANNOT IN ADVANCE, EXCLUDE THE USE OF FORCE. NOW, WE ARE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON THAT ISSUE; WE HAVE EXPLAINED THE ARGUMENT TO THEM AND I HOPE THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT ARGUMENT BEFORE LONG.

PAUL HARRINGTON: SO, IS THERE AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE AT THE MOMENT?

MR MAUDE: THERE IS AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE AT THE MOMENT, YES INDEED. THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE REPATRIATION ON DECEMBER 12 LAST YEAR WAS CARRIED OUT.

PAUL HARRINGTON: SO, WHY THEN DO THE VIETNAMESE SO VEHEMENTLY SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY MORE MANDATORY RETURNS, IF THERE IS AN AGREEMENT?

MR MAUDE: THEY SAY THAT THEY WON'T ACCEPT THEM UNLESS THE USE OF FORCE IS SPECIFICALLY AND ABSOLUTELY RULED OUT IN ADVANCE. NOW, WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THIS IS A PRACTICE CARRIED OUT DAY-BY-DAY ACROSS THE WORLD. IN NINE-HUNDRED-AND-NINETY-NINE CASES OUT OF A THOUSAND FORCE IS NOT USED, IT DOES NOT ARISE, BECAUSE THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY. THEY MAY NOT WANT TO GO BACK, THEY ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GO BACK, BUT THEY ARE NONETHELESS ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF GOING BACK, AND SO THERE IS NO RESISTANCE AND NO FORCE USED. AND THAT WAS THE POSITION WITH THE REPATRIATION WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR. AND WE ARE SIMPLY GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS OF EXPLAINING THIS PROPERLY AND FULLY TO THE VIETNAMESE AND WE EXPECT THEM TO MEET THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS LIKE EVERY OTHER COUNTRY DOES.

CHRISTINA CHOW (RTHK): IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE SOME, CLAUSES IN THE NATIONALITY BILL WILL BE AMENDED? LIKE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO CAN ACCEPT THE PASSPORT WILL BE CUT DOWN BELOW 50,000? WHAT CAN YOU DO?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO MAKE AMENDMENTS OF THAT SORT; IN FACT I WOULD EXPECT ATTEMPTS TO BE MADE TO DO THAT. BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESIST THAT, AND I HOPE WE SHALL PERSUADE A MAJORITY IN THE COMMITTEE, OR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, TO ACCEPT THE BILL AS IT IS.

HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY (BBC): MR MAUDE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED THE BASIC LAW ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WHAT OBLIGATION DOES BRITAIN HAVE TO TAKE THAT VIEW UP TO PEKING AND GET THE LAW CHANGED?

MR MAUDE: WELL I THINK THE WAY YOU EXPRESS THE QUESTION DOES NOT REFLECT MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DECIDED. I SUSPECT THE TERMS OF THE MOTION WERE NOT QUITE IN THE WORDS YOU USED. BUT THE BASIC LAW HAS ONLY JUST BEEN PROMULGATED LAST WEEK; IT IS A COMPLEX DOCUMENT; WE WILL BE LOOKING AT IT VERY CAREFULLY - WE ARE LOOKING AT IT VERY CAREFULLY. CLEARLY, IT IS OPEN TO US, AND IT WOULD CLEARLY BE RIGHT, WHERE THERE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE UNCLEAR OR UNSATISFACTORY TO TAKE THEM UP AGAIN WITH PEKING, AND THAT WILL BE DONE.

HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY: WILL YOU BE MAKING SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIONS TO PEKING ON THE SPECIFIC POINTS THAT WERE RAISED BY MR MARTIN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL?

MR MAUDE: WELL I CAN'T UNDERTAKE THAT EVERY SINGLE POINT THAT MARTIN LEE RAISED IS GOING TO BE TRANSMITTED TO PEKING. BUT AS I SAY, WE ARE LOOKING AT IT VERY CAREFULLY; IF THERE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE UNCLEAR AND IF THERE ARE THINGS WHICH REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY, OF COURSE THEY CAN BE PURSUED WITH PEKING, AND WILL BE.

ALAN LO (SING TAO YAT PO): MR MAUDE, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SORT OF CHANGED YOUR POSITION ON THE REPATRIATION ISSUE AND FOLLOW THE U.S. LINE IN THAT YOU HAVE VIRTUALLY ABANDONED THE IDEA OF BOTH VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO PROCEED IN PARALLEL. CAN YOU CLARIFY YOUR POSITION?

MR MAUDE: YES. THE HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE IS THAT EVERY TIME ANY MINISTER EXPRESSES A VIEW ABOUT BOAT PEOPLE, AT ALL, IT IS INTERPRETED AS A RADICAL SHIFT IN POLICY IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER. I REMEMBER BACK IN OCTOBER WHEN JOHN MAJOR, WHEN HE WAS FOREIGN SECRETARY, ANSWERED A QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN ABSOLUTELY ROUTINE TERMS REFLECTING NO MORE THAN WHAT HE AND I AND OTHERS HAD SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE. HEADLINES IN EVERY SINGLE NEWSPAPER THE NEXT DAY WERE: "POLICY CHANGE IN FAVOUR OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION". THE FACT IS, IF YOU HAVE A REFUGEE POLICY, A POLICY OF FIRST ASYLUM WHERE YOU ACCEPT PEOPLE IN, YOU THEN HAVE TO SUBJECT THEM TO SCREENING; THOSE WHO ARE REFUGEES ARE RE-SETTLED - AND THAT IS ALL GOING AHEAD; THOSE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES HAVE TO BE SENT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. AND THAT INVOLVES, IF PEOPLE DO NOT VOLUNTEER, THEM BEING SENT BACK INVOLUNTARILY. NOW THE VOLUNTARY PROCESS IS GOING VERY WELL AT THE MOMENT. THERE IS STILL A BACKLOG OF PEOPLE. I NEGOTIATED IN HANOI A FIVEFOLD INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS PER MONTH WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTED BACK, AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS AND IT MEANS THAT AT THE PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS THE BACKLOG OF VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE GONE BACK TO VIETNAM PERHAPS SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER. BUT UNDERLYING THIS AT EVERY STAGE HAS BEEN THE UNDERSTANDING: THOSE WHO DON'T VOLUNTEER - AND I THINK IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE, PERHAPS 40,000 NON-REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS WILL VOLUNTEER - THOSE WHO DON'T VOLUNTEER WILL HAVE TO BE SENT BACK WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT, AND THAT MEANS MANDATORY REPATRIATION.

ALAN LO: THE POINT IS, THE TIMING. THE U.S. PROPOSED A ONE-YEAR FREEZE PERIOD FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE --

MR MAUDE: WELL WE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THAT. WE HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE. WE HAVE NOT, SINCE DECEMBER, SOUGHT TO USE THAT AGREEMENT BUT WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAVE SPECIFICALLY REAFFIRMED TO ME. AND MANDATORY REPATRIATION LIES BEHIND THIS POLICY. NOW IT HAS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IN VIETNAM THAT THERE IS NOWHERE FOR THESE PEOPLE TO GO; THERE IS NO PROMISED LAND AT THE END OF IT ALL. ALL THEY GET BY COMING TO HONG KONG IS A SPELL IN AN OVERCROWDED DETENTION CENTRE AND A RETURN TRIP TO VIETNAM AT SOME STAGE, AT SOME MEANS. NOT ALL OF THEM ARE GOING TO BE SENT BACK STRAIGHT AWAY. THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM; IT IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR HONG KONG. BUT UNDERLYING ALL THIS HAS TO BE THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MANDATORY REPATRIATION IS AT THE END OF IT ALL.

LAU CHUN TO (HK ECONOMIC JOURNAL): I SUPPOSE ONE OF YOUR MAJOR PURPOSES OF COMING TO HONG KONG IS TO FIND OUT THE REACTION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE. HOW WILL YOU SUMMARISE THE REACTION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHEN YOU GO BACK? WOULD YOU AGREE THAT, I MEAN, THE PACKAGE HAS A LACK OF WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT BOTH HERE AND IN BRITAIN?

MR MAUDE: NO, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT AT ALL. I THINK I'VE FOUND VERY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR IT, WHICH IS NOT TO SAY THAT EVERYONE IS SAYING, "THIS IS ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING WE WANTED AND EVERYTHING IS NOW PERFECT". OF COURSE HONG KONG ARGUED, AND ARGUED PERSUASIVELY, FOR A LARGER PACKAGE THAN THIS BUT THEY ACCEPT THE POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT FACES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING A BIGGER PACKAGE - OR EVEN GETTING THIS PACKAGE THROUGH, CERTAINLY A BIGGER PACKAGE - AND THEY ACCEPT AND APPRECIATE - AND I'VE HAD A LOT OF WORDS OF STRONG APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FROM PEOPLE HERE FOR WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING AND THE FIRM DECISION THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN TO PURSUE THIS. AND THE MESSAGE I SHALL TAKE BACK IS OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS PACKAGE AND THE STRONG FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE VERY BAD NEWS FOR HONG KONG WERE IT NOW TO PASS.

JOHN ELLIOTT (FINANCIAL TIMES): I AM SORRY TO COME BACK TO WHERE WE BEGAN BUT I WANT TO RETURN TO THIS MYSTERY OF THE FRENCH SCHEME. IN THE STATEMENT WHICH I HAVE NOW FOUND MY COPY OF, YESTERDAY YOU SAID: "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME TO PROVIDE PASSPORTS OR RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR UP TO 1500" - AND I HAVE GOT MY NOUGHTS RIGHT THIS TIME - "1500 EMPLOYEES". "ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME".

MR MAUDE: THAT'S RIGHT.

JOHN ELLIOTT: IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION JUST NOW, YOU SAID: "THE FRENCH ARE INTENDING TO PUT THAT SCHEME INTO EFFECT". NOW, "ARE INTENDING TO PUT" IN MY ENGLISH - AND YOU WERE QUERYING THAT EARLIER AS WELL - IS DIFFERENT FROM "ARE IMPLEMENTING". SO FIRSTLY, ARE THEY IMPLEMENTING - AND IF SO, WHEN DID THEY START? AND ALSO, WHERE DOES THE 1500 COME FROM? WHOSE FIGURE IS THE 1500 AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

MR MAUDE: THE FIGURE OF 1500, I THINK, COMES FROM REPORTS IN FRANCE, BUT IT IS ONLY A --

JOHN ELLIOTT: WHAT SORT? GOVERNMENT REPORTS OR?

MR MAUDE: I THINK IT IS ACTUALLY FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS BUT --

JOHN ELLIOTT: ... QUOTING NEWSPAPER REPORTS?

MR MAUDE: WELL I ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

JOHN ELLIOTT: WELL I DON'T, SO CAN WE START AGAIN, AND CAN I ASK YOU WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY FIRM INFORMATION FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF A 1500 FIGURE, OR IS IT BASED ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS?

MR MAUDE: THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON PEOPLE'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT MIGHT BE THE TOTAL NUMBER, BUT IT IS VERY -- (BLANK TAPE FOR A FEW SECONDS) -- PEOPLE IN FRANCE WHO HAVE INTERPRETED THE SIGNS COMING IN. BUT I MEAN THIS ISN'T CAPABLE - A SCHEME LIKE THIS WHICH AIMS TO GIVE THE RIGHT OF ENTRY OR PASSPORTS, BUT I THINK FOR THE LARGER SCHEME THE RIGHT OF ENTRY, TO EMPLOYEES OF FRENCH FIRMS IN HONG KONG - IT ISN'T CAPABLE OF SPECIFIC CALCULATION. IT IS NOT LIKE OUR SCHEME WHICH SETS A QUOTA AND THEN HAS A SCHEME OF SELECTION TO DECIDE WHO COMES WITHIN THAT QUOTA. THIS IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF EXERCISE. IT IS ONE WHICH IS VALUABLE FOR HONG KONG BUT IT ONLY APPLIES TO EMPLOYEES OF FRENCH COMPANIES IN HONG KONG. I DO NOT HAVE A FULL INVENTORY OF HOW MANY EMPLOYEES OF FRENCH FIRMS THERE ARE IN HONG KONG.

JOHN ELLIOTT: WITH RESPECT, MINISTER, I DID NOT SUGGEST IT WAS A RIGID SCHEME, I DID NOT SUGGEST THE FIGURES, I AM MERELY QUOTING TO YOU YOUR STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY. ARE YOU NOW SAYING THAT IT IS INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME FOR UP TO 1500 EMPLOYEES? IS THAT RIGHT OR WRONG?

MR MAUDE: IT IS A SCHEME WHICH COULD PROVIDE RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR UP TO ABOUT 1500 PEOPLE. I MEAN THAT IS SIMPLY AN INDICATION --

JOHN ELLIOTT: HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD THAT BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

MR MAUDE: LET ME FINISH. THAT IS AN ESTIMATE OF THE SORT OF NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE. THERE IS NO SORT OF GREAT MAGIC OR MYSTERY ABOUT THIS. I MEAN YOU ARE INTERPRETING THE SYNTAX IN AN EXCESSIVELY FASTIDIOUS WAY

NORMAN REES (ITN): CAN I GO BACK TO THE POINT THAT MR ELLIOTT WAS MAKING AND I THINK IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS MYSTIFYING NOT ONLY US BUT A LOT OF OUR DESKS. THE EFFECT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT YOU MADE YESTERDAY, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR NON-INTENTIONAL, WAS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A GROUNDSWELL OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT LINING UP BEHIND THE BRITISH NATIONALITY PACKAGE. WHEN YOU EXAMINE YOUR STATEMENT, THE QUESTION YOU TALK ABOUT: "FRANCE IMPLEMENTING A POLICY" - WE ARE NOT QUITE CLEAR WHETHER YOU MEAN THAT IS FRENCH POLICY OR NOT? SINGAPORE, THE SCHEME YOU HAVE MENTIONED, IS A SCHEME THAT IS ALREADY FUNCTIONING. YOU CONGRATULATED AUSTRALIA ON ITS POLICY BUT THERE IS NO POLICY CHANGE. YOU CONGRATULATED CANADA ON ITS POLICY BUT THERE IS NO POLICY CHANGE. THE USA POLICY WHICH YOU SAID IS THE GLEAM IN THE EYE OF A SINGLE CONGRESSMAN. YOU MENTIONED GERMANY, LUXEMBOURG AND BELGIUM AS COUNTRIES CONSIDERING IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME BUT WITHOUT DETAILS. AND THE CONSUL GENERALS OF ALMOST EVERY OTHER EUROPEAN, OR EEC COUNTRY THAT WAS CONTACTED HERE IN HONG KONG, DID NOT KNOW WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT. NOW IT MAY WELL BE THAT THERE IS A HECK OF A LOT GOING ON BEHIND THE BACKS OF THESE CONSUL GENERALS. BUT COULD YOU PLEASE BE MORE SPECIFIC AND TELL US WHETHER YOU HAVE HAD SPECIFIC PLEDGES FROM THESE COUNTRIES OR NOT, OR GIVE US SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF WHERE THESE TALKS, IF THEY ARE TAKING PLACE, ACTUALLY STAND AT THE MOMENT?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I WILL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE. THERE IS A FRENCH COMMITMENT TO THIS SCHEME WHICH IS BEING IMPLEMENTED - IT ISN'T FINAL BUT IT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. AS I SAY IN THIS STATEMENT, GERMANY, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG ARE ABOUT TO FINALISE SCHEMES OF BROADLY THE SAME NATURE. AND I SAY AGAIN, THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVEN'T BEEN CARRIED ON WITH THE CONSULATE GENERALS IN HONG KONG. THEY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITALS IN EUROPE. AND AS I GO ON TO SAY HERE, A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERING ACTIVELY WHAT THEY COULD DO TO HELP. NOW, A NUMBER OF THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN MINISTERS AND, AS WE HAVE DISCOVERED WITH OUR OWN PACKAGE, IT IS QUITE A COMPLEX TECHNICAL BUSINESS. BUT THE POINT I WAS SEEKING TO MAKE IN THIS STATEMENT IS THAT THERE IS ACROSS THE WORLD, AMONG OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES, A GOOD DEAL OF SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE POSITION OF HONG KONG, AND A DESIRE TO DO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP. AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS STATEMENT IS TO POINT TO THE FLEXIBILITY WITHIN EXISTING - YES, NO CHANGE OF POLICY IN AUSTRALIA IN CANADA - BUT TO POINT TO THE FLEXIBILITY WITHIN THEIR RULES WHICH ACTUALLY ENABLES PEOPLE NOT TO HAVE TO LEAVE HONG KONG ABSOLUTELY WHILE GAINING NATIONALITY IN THOSE COUNTRIES. AND THE POINT IN THE UNITED STATES IS THAT A LEADING CONGRESSMAN HAS ACTUALLY MADE A PROPOSITION - IT MAY BE ONLY A SINGLE CONGRESSMAN BUT AS YOU ALL KNOW, THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF SUPPORT IN CONGRESS FOR HONG KONG - AND THIS CONGRESSMAN IS SEEKING TO PERSUADE HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMITTEE DEALING WITH THIS IMMIGRATION BILL THAT THIS MEASURE SHOULD GO THROUGH. NOW IF IT DOES GO THROUGH, THAT IS VERY VALUABLE, AND IT IS VERY VALUABLE, I THINK, THAT ALL OF THESE PEOPLE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES I HAVE REFERRED TO, WHO ARE SEEKING VERY SINCERELY AND GENUINELY TO DO WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP HONG KONG, THAT THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY DOING IT ON THEIR OWN. WE GAVE THE LEAD. WHEN WE ORIGINALLY MADE OVERTURES TO OTHER COUNTRIES, BACK WELL BEFORE DOUGLAS HURD MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PACKAGE IN DECEMBER, THE RESPONSE WE HAD AT THAT STAGE WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC: YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT - BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING? AND THAT WAS VERY FAIR, WE ARE THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY AND WE WERE PUT ON OUR METAL, VERY PROPERLY, TO COME UP WITH OUR OWN PACKAGE TO GIVE THE LEAD. AND THAT WE HAVE DONE AND THAT IS UNDERSTOOD.

WHAT I AM REFERRING TO HERE - AND I SAY EXPLICITLY AT THE END OF THE STATEMENT THAT THE WORK IS NOT YET DONE, THAT THERE IS MORE TO DO AND WE SHALL CARRY ON DOING THAT WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES - BUT ALTOGETHER, THESE SEPARATE COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE, OTHER COMMITMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING MADE, ARE GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG, PUT TOGETHER.

JOHNATHAN BRAUDE (THE TIMES): SOME OF THE COUNTRIES YOU HAVE MENTIONED HAVE SCHEMES WHICH ARE DEFERMENTS; THEY ARE NOT A SITUATION WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO FULFIL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, THEY SIMPLY DEFER THE DATE OF ENTRY --

MR MAUDE: THAT'S RIGHT.

JOHNATHAN BRAUDE: -- AT WHICH YOU SERVE RESIDENCY. NOW IN YOUR CASE, I MEAN FOR THE FRENCH CASE THIS APPEARS TO BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT BECAUSE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A RIGHT OF ABODE PACKAGE AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO FRANCE TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS. THE CHINESE HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT RECOGNISE PASSPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED WITHOUT RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS BEING FULFILLED. ARE YOU SAYING THAT BRITISH AND FRENCH PASSPORTS ARE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO BE VALUABLE TO PEOPLE IN THIS WAY, AND IS THIS ACTUALLY THE SAME SCHEME THAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT FROM THE FRENCH AND THE CANADIANS AND THE GERMANS?

MR MAUDE: I HAVEN'T SAID, AT ANY STAGE, THAT ALL THESE SCHEMES ARE IDENTICAL. IT WOULD BE VERY REMARKABLE IF ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES WERE, YES, ALONG SIMILAR LINES, WERE ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE THE SIMILAR AIM OF GIVING PEOPLE AN ASSURANCE WITHOUT THE NEED TO LEAVE HONG KONG TO OBTAIN IT, AND THAT'S THE BROAD EFFECT WHICH EACH SCHEME IS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE. BUT IT WOULD BE VERY ODD IF, WITH THE VERY DIFFERENT SYSTEMS OF NATIONALITY AND THE VERY DIFFERENT TYPES OF IMMIGRATION RULES WHICH EXIST IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES, EACH ONE CAME OUT LOOKING EXACTLY THE SAME, BUT THE BROAD EFFECT .....

JOHNATHAN BRAUDE: TO HAVE TO LEAVE HONG KONG TO ACQUIRE THE PASSPORTS OF SINGAPORE, OF CANADA, OF AUSTRALIA, OF THE UNITED STATES .....

MR MAUDE: BUT IT'S THE RIGHT OF ENTRY, THE ASSURANCE THAT THERE IS SOMEWHERE TO GO, AT SOME STAGE IN THE FUTURE, IF THINGS GET BAD HERE. THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR IN HONG KONG AND THAT'S WHAT ALL OF THESE SCHEMES IN THEIR DIFFERENT WAYS SEEK TO ACHIEVE. AND SO FAR AS THE VALUE OF THESE ASSURANCES OF VARIOUS SORTS ARE CONCERNED, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE JOINT DECLARATION ENTRENCHES THE RIGHT TO ENTER AND RETURN TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997. CHINA HAS SOLEMNLY AND CONTINUOUSLY REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD PUT THEIR FAITH ON.

JOHN ELLIOTT (FINANCIAL TIMES): AREN'T THESE SCHEMES THEN LIFEBOAT SCHEMES WHICH WILL ONLY OPERATE IN A TIME OF CRISIS?

MR MAUDE: NO, INDEED, I MEAN, THEY ARE SCHEMES LIKELY I SUSPECT TO BE SCHEMES WHICH GIVE THE RIGHT NOW WITH THE CAPABILITY OF IT BEING EXERCISED LATER.

SIMON MACKLIN (SCMP): ....CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY, IT SEEMS TO HAVE INSPIRED AN AWFUL LOT OF CONFUSION, I MEAN .....

MR MAUDE: WELL I MEAN THAT THE FACT IS THAT ALTOGETHER THIS ACTUALLY ADDS TO THE PACKAGE WHICH WE HAVE ANNOUNCED. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SAY ON BEHALF OF EVERY OTHER GOVERNMENT EXACTLY WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE BECAUSE IT ISN'T ACTUALLY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS. ALL I HAVE SOUGHT TO DO IS TO PULL TOGETHER WHAT THE OVERALL EFFECT IS AND MIGHT BE IF IT ALL COMES TOGETHER. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD WITH THESE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO BRING THESE VARIOUS SCHEMES TO FRUITION, AND TO THE GREATER EXTENT WE SUCCEED, THE GREATER THE BENEFIT, AND THE GREATER THE BOOST TO CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. I THINK THAT IS UNDERSTOOD HERE. THANKS.